

Response – Remarks

The specification has been amended to make it absolutely clear that Applicant is claiming the benefit of Italian Patent Application MO96A000080 filed in Italy on June 18, 1996.

Applicant's benefit of the filing date of the Italian Patent Application eliminates the Redmond U.S. Patent 6,085,942 which was filed January 31, 1997 as a reference under 35 USC § 102(e). Consequently, the Redmond U.S. Patent 6,085,942 is not prior art that can be considered under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siegel U.S. Patent 3,913,734 in view of Redmond U.S. Patent 6,085,942. As indicated above, the Redmond U.S. Patent 6,085,942 cannot be considered part of the prior art under 35 USC § 103(a). Consequently, the Examiner has not made out a prima facie case of obviousness and thus claims 1-4 must be allowed in the absence of additional prior art.

Further it should be observed that item 40 in figures 9, 11 and 12 of the Siegel '734 patent is a "fold line" as described in lines 50-55 of the Siegel '734 patent. The Siegel '734 patent does not describe item 40 as either a "sever indicating means" (claim 1) or an "incision" (claim 2). Moreover, the Siegel '734 patent drawing does not show item 40 as either a "sever indicating means" or an "incision".

Claim 1 has been amended to improve grammar.

Claim 5 has been amended to eliminate dependency on a multiple dependent claim. Consequently claims 5 and 6 are now in proper form for examination.

New independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8 and 9 have been added.

Please reexamine claims 1-4 and examine claims 5-9 in view of the foregoing remarks.

July 22, 2005

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

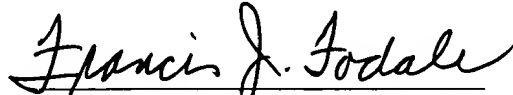
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on July 22, 2005.


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Respectfully submitted,

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